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NARRATIVE

Of the Barbarous and unheard of

MURDER

OF

Mr. JOHN HAYES,

BY

Catherine his Wife, *Thomas Billings*, and *Thomas Wood*, on the 1st of *March* at Night.

Wherein every minute Circumstance attending that Horrid Affair, and the wonderful Providence of God in the Discovery of the Actors therein, are faithfully and impartially related. Together with the Examinations and Confessions of the said *Thomas Billings* and *Thomas Wood* before several of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace.

As also the Copy of a fictitious Letter that *Catherine Hayes* sent, as from her Husband, to his Mother in *Worcestershire* after his Death; and the Mother's Answer thereto: With some Account of the wicked Life and Conversation of the said *Catherine*, and likewise of those of *Thomas Billings* and *Thomas Wood*.

To which are prefix'd,

Their true and exact EFFIGIES, drawn from the Life, and curiously engraved on Copper.

Published with the Approbation of the Relations and Friends of the said Mr. John Hayes.

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and Thomas Wood, on the 11th of
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derers and Traitors before Several of the
Majesty's Justices of the Peace.

As also the Copy of a Pathetic Letter that Catherine
Hayes sent from her Husband, to his Mother in
Ireland, in which after his Death, and the Methods Au-
thor took to conceal it, with some Account of the wicked
Life and Conversation of the said Catherine, and
likewise the Characters of those Villains and Traitors Wood
and Billings.

To which are prefix'd

Their true and exact PICTURES, drawn from the Life, and
curiously engraved on Copper.

A NARRATIVE OF THE HORRID MURDER OF Mr. *John Hayes*, &c.

IN all the black Catalogue of Sins committed in the World, there is none that the Juſtice of God has ſo viſibly witneſs'd againſt, and brought to juſt and deſerved Puniſhment, as that barbarous and crying Sin of Murder; a Crime in defacing his holy Image, and aſſuming a Prerogative peculiar to him alone, who is the Sovereign Lord of the Life and Death of his Creatures: Therefore as it is not lawful for any Perſon to take

away his own Life, or the Life of another, unleſs ourſelves have forfeited them to the Juſtice of the Law, ſo has the Law of God, and the Laws of all civiliz'd (nay even heathen) Nations, made a Fence to ſecure them.

His preſent Majeſty, our moſt gracious Sovereign, hath ever held this Crime in the utmoſt Abhorrence and Deteſtation, and ſince his Acceſſion to the Throne of theſe Realms there have happen'd but *two Inſtances* where his Royal Clemency has been extended to Perſons that by the Law had been found guilty of it, and that upon the Account of ſome very favourable Circumſtances, as appear'd in their *Caſes*, more than thro' the Interceſſion of Courtiers, or others, who had any Share in his Royal Favour.

The mild gentle Laws of *England*, indulging the Paſſions of Men to a greater Degree than any other Nation, may perhaps be a reaſon why ſo many Duels and Rencounters (in which the Subjects too often loſe their Lives) paſs with more Impunity than elſewhere. But when we conſider how particularly benevolent they have been to the *Women* of this Iſland, the horrible *Murder* we are going to ſpeak of, will appear the more black and ſhocking. For by the Laws of this Realm, when a Woman marries ſhe gives herſelf over, and what ſhe brings with her, to her *Huſband's Power*; ſhe parts with her very Surname, and aſſumes her Huſband's, wherefore if ſhe wrongs another Perſon with her Tongue, (a common Caſe) or commits a Treſpaſs, her Huſband anſwers for the Fault, and muſt make Satisfaction. If ſhe takes Things upon Truſt, unknown to her Huſband, and ſo ruins him in Debt, he muſt pay it, or lie in Priſon, notwithſtanding his having advertis'd the Publick, or cry'd her down in the Market. Nay, if a Wife brings forth a Child, begotten before Marriage by another Man, the Huſband is bound to own it as his Child, and the Child ſhall be his Heir at Law, according to this Axiom, *Pater eſt, quem Nuptia demonſtrant.* If ſhe brings forth a Child after a long Abſence of her Huſband, and he liv'd all that while *inter quatuor Maria*, within the four Seas, he muſt father that Child. And if it be her firſt-born Son, and the Huſband's Eſtate entail'd, or left without Will, that Child ſhall be Heir to it. A Wife that has no Jointure ſettled before Marriage, may challenge, after her Huſband's Death, the third Part of his yearly Rents (if Land) during her Life. In ſhort, as the Huſband and

Wife

Wife are accounted but *One*, so she cannot be produc'd as a Witness for or against him; nor can they be wholly separated by Law, but upon a Nullity of Marriage, for Adultery, Consanguinity, Impotency, or such like, in which Cases, this is call'd a Separation, *à Vinculo Matrimonii*, by which each Party is free to re-marry. However, if the Wife offends her Husband, he may moderately correct her; but should she kill her Husband, the Crime is by Law accounted *Petty Treason*, and she is to be drawn on a Hurdle to the Place of Execution, and there *burnt alive* for it.

Having said thus much of the great Priviledges and Immunities of an *English Wife*, we shall proceed to shew the monstrous Perfidy and Cruelty of a Woman Mistaken to the Benefit of the above-mention'd Laws; a Tragedy too shocking to be heard by human Ears, almost incredible, and, (God be thank'd) the Circumstances consider'd, the like never ever heard of before in this Kingdom, which take as follows, *viz.*

On *Wednesday* the 2d of *March* last, the Town was alarm'd with an Account that the Head of a Man, which by its Freshness appear'd to have been newly cut off from a living Body, had been taken up by one *Robinson*, a Watchman, at the Dock before Mr. *Macreth*'s Lime-Wharf, near the Horse-Ferry at *Westminster*, soon after Day-break, together with a Pail that was near the Head, in which was some Blood, and was therefore suppos'd to have been brought thither to the Water-side. It was brought to St. *Margaret*'s Church-yard, and laid on a Tomb-stone, but being much besmear'd with Dirt and Blood, the Church-Wardens order'd the Face to be wash'd clean, and the Hair combed, and caus'd it then to be set upon a high Post, to the end that all Persons, having a clear View of it, might be the only Means of attaining a Discovery. Next Mr. *Bird*, the High Constable, issu'd his Precepts to the Petty Constables, that the Avenues leading to the *Thames*, as *Petty-France*, *King-Street*, *White-Hall*, &c. should be strictly guarded that Night, and all Coaches and Carts passing, search'd for the Body, as believing that would be likewise brought to the *Thames*, which Order was executed for two Nights together.

The Head, continuing expos'd for three Days successively, drew a vast Concourse of People to St. *Margaret's* Church-Yard to behold it, all expressing their Horror at so dreadful and unusual a Spectacle. Various were the Conjectures and Opinions of People about it, some saying it was a *Soldier*, others, a Country *Pedlar*; the Women mostly affirming they had seen the Face, but *could not call it to Mind*. At length a *Welsh* or *Irish* Porter at a Tavern in *Holbourn*, that was got drunk and was missing, was given out to be the Person, and the Face bearing a strong Resemblance of his Physiognomy, 'tis said the Man himself, being doubtful, came to *Westminster*, to be convinc'd by ocular Demonstration.

The prudent Measures taken by the Church-Wardens having not hitherto met with the desir'd Success, their Discretion went farther, by ordering the Head to be deliver'd to Mr. *Westbrooke*, their Parish *Surgeon*, to be by him put into Spirits, and still preserv'd for View, which was done accordingly; and then a Woman or two came and pretended to give some Account of it, which did not prove satisfactory. The Town continu'd under great Surprize at the Barbarity of the Action, and moreover that no Light could be got of the Matter, which was become the Subject of all Conversation. *The Man's Head*, being a Phrase in every Body's Mouth, and indeed nothing more could be said about it, as the Case then stood.

But on *Wednesday* the 23d of *March* following it pleas'd a *wiser Head* than all the rest to bring to a signal Disgrace and Punishment the Authors of this execrable Fact, in the following Manner: *viz.* Mr. *Henry Longmore* that keeps the *Green-Dragon* Ale-House in *King-Street*, near *Golden-Square*, being nearly related to one Mr. *John Hayes*, from *Ombersly* in *Worcestershire*, who then lodg'd together with his Wife on a second Floor, at the House of Mr. *Weingard*, a Smith, in *Tyburn* Road, at a very short Distance from Mr. *Longmore's* House; Mr. *Joseph Abshy*, Butler to Sir *Thomas Lumley Sanderson*, a Townsman, and a very intimate Friend of Mr. *Hayes*, taking Notice that Mr. *Hayes* had not been seen by any body for many Days before, and that there were many strange Reports, and a Suspicion of his being murder'd, were under a very great Concern to obtain Satisfaction about him. Having been many times with his Wife

to

to ask what was become of him, sometimes she said he was gone to take a Walk in the Fields; at others, gone into *Hertfordshire*; thus varying in her Accounts of him, and having told also very different Stories to other People about him, they began to expostulate very seriously with her about this unaccountable Absence of her Husband; she then pretended to tell the Truth of the Matter, saying he had kill'd a Man, by giving him an unhappy Blow in a Quarrel, and was thereupon fled to *Portugal*. This Story she told to Mr. *Ashby*, who ask'd her who the Man was that he had kill'd, and whether or not that was his Head that had been expos'd at *Westminster*? She answer'd it was not, for that the Man was buried, &c. and call'd one *Mary Springate* to say she knew it to be true.

Mr. *Longmore* and Mr. *Ashby* were now more surpris'd than ever, this Tale serving rather to encrease than abate their Suspicion, as believing if any such Thing had happen'd, which was next to being impossible from Mr. *Hayes*'s peaceable Disposition, they might have been acquainted with it, and consulted about his Security as well as *Mary Springate*. They therefore resolv'd to go to Mr. *Westbrooke*'s, the Surgeon, to take a View of the Head. When they came to Mr. *Westbrooke*'s, he told them a Woman from *Kingsland* had already been there and own'd it. Impossible is it to describe the Consternation Mr. *Longmore* and Mr. *Ashby* were struck with when they beheld it, for now was it demonstrable what a cruel and inhuman Murder had been committed on this unfortunate Person.

Hereupon they immediately apply'd to *Oliver Lambert*, Esq; one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, who, upon Oath being made of these Circumstances, issu'd his Warrant for the apprehending of *Catherine Hayes*, she being then remov'd from her Lodgings at Mr. *Weingard*'s, and lodg'd a little farther in *Tyburn* Road, at one Mr. *James*'s, a Distiller, where *Mary Springate* was also remov'd with her. It was agreed to execute the Warrant about nine a Clock that Night, being the 23d of *March*, Justice *Lambert* going himself along with the Constable and his Assistants, and when they came up Stairs, were refus'd Admittance into Mrs. *Hayes*'s Chamber; but they threatening to break in upon her, she came out to them, and opening the Door, they found one *Thomas Billings*, a Taylor, sitting

ting upon the Bed-side, with his Shoes and Stockings off, whom they seiz'd also; as likewise *Mary Springate*, who hidg'd over Head in the Garret. Being carry'd to Justice *Lambert*'s House, and there by him examin'd, they all ingeniously persisted in their Innocence; *Catherine Hayes* was committed to *Tothill-Fields-Bridewell*, *Springate* to the *Gate-house*, and *Billings* to *New-Prison*, for farther Examination.

But remark the wonderful Providence of God, in bringing still to a clearer Light this hidden Work of Darkness! During the Time they were under Examination, Mr. *Gro*[illegible] a Constable, came with News to Justice *Lambert*'s, that a few Hours before, Mr. *Huddle*, a Gardiner at *Maryborn*, had, as he was walking with his Man in the Fields, discover'd the Arms, Legs, and Trunk of a Man's Body, wrapp'd up in two Pieces of Blanket, lying in a Pond near the *Farthing-Pye-house*, and cover'd over with Bricks and Rubbish. The Head was hereupon sent for to *Maryborn*, where, in the View of several Surgeons and others, it was found to correspond exactly with the Body, and the Limbs so quadrate also. But it must be here observ'd, that before the Head was brought from *Westminster*, Mrs. *Hayes* was carry'd from *Bridewell* to Mr. *Westbrooke*'s to see it, the Keeper of *Bridewell*, Mr. *Longmore*, and Mr. *Abby* being present, she said it was the Head of her dear Husband, and desir'd a Lock of his Hair; but was told she had had too much of his Blood already. She pretended to faint, and the same Afternoon she was remov'd to *Newgate*, by Justice *Lambert*'s Warrant.

The *Sunday* following, one *Tho. Wood*, a Person suspected of being concern'd in the Murder, came on Horseback to Mr. *Weingard*'s House, and asking for Mrs. *Hayes*, was told she was remov'd into *King-Street*, to Mr. *Longmore*'s, and several People following him thither, Mr. *Longmore* immediately pull'd him off his Horse, *Wood* making an Offer to strike him with a Stick; he was carry'd before Justice *Lambert*, and committed to *Tothill-Fields-Bridewell*. In the Evening three of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace went thither to examine him, to whom he made an ingenious Confession of the horrid Affair.

Thomas

Thomas Billings, having also made an ample Confession, they were both remov'd the next Day to *Newgate*.

The Examination and Confession of Thomas Wood, *taken before* John Mohun, Oliver Lambert, *and* Thomas Sale, *Esqrs; three of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Middlesex, the 27th Day of* March, 1726.

WHO saith, That on *Tuesday*, the 1st Day of *March*, he had been drinking in several Places, and came about twelve a Clock at Noon to Mr. *Hayes*'s Lodgings, and Mr. *Hayes* told him he was merry, that he could drink a great deal of Liquor and not be fuddled, and said, I and another drank half a Guinea a piece in Wine, without being fuddled; that *Thomas Billings*, then in Company, said that if Mr. *Hayes* would drink half a Guinea in Wine, and not be fuddled, he would pay for it; that *Hayes* agreed, each put down half a Guinea, that *Catherine Hayes*, *Thomas Billings*, and this Examinant went out about four a Clock in the Afternoon, to *Bond-Street*, and brought in with them, to Mr. *Hayes*'s Lodgings, about six or seven Bottles of Mountain Wine, and on their Return home, Mr. *Hayes* was sitting by the Fire-side, eating Bread and Cheese, and then this Examinant went to the *Angel* and *Crown*, to fetch a Pot of Two-penny to drink while Mr. *Hayes* drank the Wine; that he staid about half an Hour, and when he return'd, Mr. *Hayes* had drank half the Wine; that Mr. *Hayes* began to be very merry, and danc'd about the Room, and said he thought he should not have Wine enough to make him fuddled, on which *Thomas Billings* went out by himself, and fetch'd another Bottle of Wine, and when he had drank that, he began to reel about the Room, and went and laid down on the Bed in the Back-Room, then *Thomas Billings* follow'd him into the said Room, and there with a Hatchet struck him on the Back-Part of the Head, which Blow this Examinant heard given, and went into the Room, and found Mr. *Hayes* dead; that Mrs. *Hayes* immediately follow'd into the said Room, and said we must take off his Head, and make it away, or it will betray us; that *Catherine Hayes*, *Thomas Billings*, and this Examinant, with this Examinant's

Pocket-

Pocket-Knife, cut off Mr. *Hayes's* Head about eight a Clock at Night, and then put it into a Pail, without a Bale; that *Thomas Billings* and this Examinant carry'd the Pail with the Head in it to the Water-side; when they came there *Thomas Billings* set down the Pail; and this Examinant took it up, and threw it into the *Thames*, and return'd to Mrs. *Hayes's* Lodgings, and went to Bed in the Fore-Room, in which Room Mrs. *Hayes* sate up all Night; and this Examinant sayeth, that the next Morning, as soon as it was light, *Catherine Hayes*, *Thomas Billings*, and this Examinant began to consult what they must do with the Body; that *Catherine Hayes* propos'd to cut it in Pieces, which she, *Thomas Billings* and this Examinant, did, and put it into the Box, where it remain'd till Night, and then all agreed to carry it out in Parcels; that *Thomas Billings* and this Examinant took the Carcass in a Blanket, and carry'd it by Turns to a Sort of a Pond, or a Ditch, in *Marybone* Fields, and threw it in with the Blanket; that about eleven a Clock the same Night, *Thomas Billings* and this Examinant took the Limbs in a Piece of a Blanket, and by Turns carry'd them to the same Place, and threw them into the same Pond, and went home about twelve a Clock the same Night, and knock'd at the Door, and was let in by *Mary Springate*, and went to Bed in the Fore-Room; that *Catherine Hayes* was in the same Room, and sometimes went and lay down on the Bed: This Examinant farther saith, That on *Thursday*, being the 3d Day of *March*, he went to *Greenford*, near *Harrow*, in *Middlesex*, and carry'd with him a white Coat and a Pair of Leathern Breeches, which were Mr. *John Hayes's*, and are now at *Greenford* aforesaid. This Examinant saith, That on *Saturday* the 5th Day of *March* he went to Mrs. *Hayes's* Lodgings for some Linnen of his own, Mrs. *Hayes* then gave him a Pair of Shoes, a Wastecoat, a Hat, and a Pair of Stockings, which this Examinant knew to be her late Husband's, and gave him two Shillings in Money; that *Catherine Hayes* told him the Head was found at *Westminster*, but was not own'd. And this Examinant farther saith, That the said *Catherine Hayes* gave him three Shillings and Six Pence, and promis'd to supply him with more Money, when ever he wanted; and further saith, That *Catherine Hayes* had many times before, and on the 1st Day of this Instant, propos'd to *Thomas Billings* and this Examinant the Murder of her said Husband, and offer'd to give this Examinant Money to buy Wine to make her Husband drunk,

drunk, that they might murder him; and further saith, That *Mary Springate* is no ways concern'd in the said Murder, or the carrying away the Body.

Tho. Wood.

The Examination and Confession of Tho. Billings, *before two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of* Middlesex, *on* Tuesday, March 29, 1726.

WHO saith, That *Catherine Hayes*, *Tho. Wood*, and this Examinant, about three Weeks before the Murder of Mr. *John Hayes*, had consulted to murder the said *Hayes*, but not in what Manner to put it in Execution; that on the 18 of this Instant *March*, he being in Mr. *Hayes*'s Room with *Catherine Hayes* and *Tho. Wood*, discoursing about drinking, Mr. *Hayes* told him he could drink a great deal of Wine and not be drunk, to the Value of half a Guinea, and this Examinant, thereupon, put down half a Guinea to Mr. *Hayes*'s half Guinea, that this Examinant, with *Catherine Hayes* and *Tho. Wood*, went for about six Bottles of Mountain Wine, that going for the Wine, they three consulted to murder the said *John Hayes*, it being a proper Time, after he had drunk the Wine, being about four a Clock in the Afternoon; that on their Return they found Mr. *John Hayes* eating Bread and Cheese; that Mr. *Hayes* began to drink the Wine; that *Catherine Hayes*, *Tho. Wood*, and this Examinant did not drink above one Glass each of the said Wine; that Mr. *Hayes* began to be very merry, and danc'd about the Room; that this Examinant fetch'd another Bottle of Wine, which they all drank amongst them; that Mr. *Hayes* began to reel about the Room, and went and lay down on the Bed in the Back-Room; that this Examinant went into the said Back-Room about a Quarter of an Hour after him, and there with a Hatchet struck him on the Back Part of the Head; that *Tho. Wood* took up the Hatchet, which this Examinant had just laid down, and therewith gave Mr. *Hayes* a Blow or two; that *Catharine Hayes* immediately follow'd into the said Back-Room, where *Tho. Wood* cut off the Head of the said Mr. *Hayes* with his Knife; that the said *Catherine Hayes* and this Examinant were close by the Bed when the said Head was cut off; that *Catherine Hayes* held the

Pail which *Tho. Wood* put the Head in, which Pail was without a Bale; that this Examinant, with *Tho. Wood*, took up the Pail with the Head in it, which this Examinant carry'd to the Mill-Bank, and *Tho. Wood* took up the Pail and threw it into the *Thames*, with the Head in it, and ſo return'd to Mrs. *Hayes*'s Lodgings, and went to Bed in the Fore-Room, in which Room Mrs. *Hayes* continu'd all Night: And this Examinant ſaith, That on *Wedneſday* Morning, the 2d Inſtant, this Examinant, *Tho. Wood*, and *Catherine Hayes* began to conſult how to diſpoſe of the Body of Mr. *John Hayes*; that the ſaid *Catherine Hayes* and *Tho. Wood* propos'd to put it into a Box, where it remain'd until Night; that this Examinant went out about Noon to work; that *Tho. Wood* was to look out for a Place to throw the Body in againſt this Examinant's Return home; that about nine a Clock at Night, *Catherine Hayes* gave *Tho. Wood* a Blanket to carry off the Body of her deceas'd Huſband, and then all agreed to carry it off in two Parcels; that about the ſame Hour *Tho. Wood* and this Examinant carry'd away the Body by Turns, to a Sort of a Pond, or Ditch, in *Marybone* Fields, and threw it in with the Blanket, and then return'd to Mrs. *Hayes*'s Lodgings, and then took up the Limbs in a Piece of a Blanket, and carry'd them by Turns to the ſame Place, and threw them into the ſame Pond, and at their Return were let in by *Mary Springate*, and went to Bed in the Fore-Room. And this Examinant farther ſaith, That he remembers that the ſaid *Catherine Hayes* ſhew'd to one or two Men a Bond which was owing to her ſaid Huſband, but knows not the Sum.

Tho. Billings.

Copies of theſe Confeſſions were preſented to His Majeſty, who juſtly reſenting this cruel Tragedy acted upon one of his Subjects, was graciouſly pleas'd to give Orders for the Murderers to be proſecuted by Mr. Attorney General, and at His Majeſty's Expence.

Mr. *Higgs*, Coroner of the County of *Middleſex*, ſummoned an Inqueſt to enquire for His Majeſty, *&c.* when Mr. *Longmore* depos'd as follows:

The

The Information of Henry Longmore, *of the Parish of St.* James's, Westminster, *Victualler, taken and acknowledg'd upon Oath this 26th Day of* March, 1726, *before* Charles Higgs, *Esq; Coroner.*

THIS Informant saith, That on *Monday* Morning last, Mr. *Joseph Ashby* told this Informant that he heard Mr. *Hayes* had kill'd a Man; upon which, the same Evening, this Informant went to Mrs. *Hayes*'s Lodgings, where he found her, *Thomas Billings*, and a Lad about 16 Years old, and asking how his Cousin *John* did, Mrs. *Hayes* said, I suppose you have heard of his Misfortune, upon which the Lad laught very much; and whenever this Informant ask'd her any Questions about Mr. *Hayes*, the Lad burst out a laughing to that Degree, that this Informant had a Mind to have spoke to him, but was afraid Mrs. *Hayes* should suspect his Design; which Lad, this Informant hath heard was one *William Bennet*, an Apprentice to an Organ-Maker; the Lad went away, and then *Billings* went for Candles; when he was gone, Mrs. *Hayes* told this Informant, that her Husband happen'd to strike an unlucky Blow, and that the Man was dead and buried, and that no Body knew of it but a Boy, and that he went to the Wife of the Deceas'd and made it up, by giving her a Note for 15 *l.* a Year. And this Informant farther saith, that she then declar'd that there had been two Men to inquire for her Husband, which she suppos'd came from the Widow: That when *Thomas Billings* return'd, this Informant going away, she follow'd this Informant to the Window upon the Stairs, and stopping him she said, he went away for the Man that he had kill'd, and was gone into *Hertfordshire*: And asking when he went away, she said, she had been in her present Lodgings about a Week, and that he went away about a Day or two before: Upon this, *Mary Springate* went into Mrs. *Hayes*'s Room, and then Mrs. *Hayes* said, this Woman knows all the Secrets, and call'd her upon the Stairs; upon which *Springate* said, *Ah, poor unfortunate Mr. Hayes!* and then she went up again. That Mrs. *Hayes* then ask'd what she should do to get her Rent out of the Country, and ask'd this Informant when he would come again, which she desir'd might be in a Day or two. The next Day this Informant went to

Mr. *Weingard's*, where he heard Mrs *Hayes* had been gone from thence about a Fortnight; and this Informant going to her again that Night, he ask'd her if she had heard from her Husband? She said, No, he did not use to write to her. And this Informant farther saith, That on *Wednesday* last he went with Mr. *Ashby* for a Warrant, and seiz'd the said Mrs. *Hayes*, who was in Bed, and the said *Thomas Billings* in the same Room with his Shoes and Stockings off; and she being carried before Justice *Lambert*, and the said Justice telling her she was taken up on Suspicion that the Head of a Man that was found was her Husband's; and this Informant telling her he believed it was his Head, she said it could not be so, for that her Husband went into the Country for killing a Man. And being ask'd where he kill'd the Man, she said she could not tell, nor where the Man liv'd that was kill'd: She being then ask'd what Day he went away, and what Money he took, she said 25 Guineas, and 8 new Shillings, and 18 Six-pences; and that she sewed the Guineas in his Cloaths; and that he took with him four Pocket-Pistols. And this Informant farther saith, that he, this Informant, the next Day went with her to see the Head, and she said, *It is my dear Husband's Head, that is my dear Husband's Hair.*

Henry Longmore.

Charles Higgs, Coroner.

The farther Information of the said Henry Longmore, *taken and acknowledg'd upon Oath this 14th Day of* April, 1726, *before* Charles Higgs, *Esq; Coroner.*

THIS Informant farther saith, That he was present when *C. Hayes* was ask'd by the Justice what Liquor they drank the Night her Husband went away; she said that *Thomas Billings* and *Thomas Wood* were with him, and they drank about 2 or 3 Bottles; but neither of them named the Day of his going away.

And this Informant farther saith, That he was present on the 25th Day of *March* last past, at the taking up a Board in the Room of the said *John Hayes*'s Lodgings, and found Blood and Sand under the said Board; and also saw several Drops of Blood sprinkled against the Wall of the Fore-Room

of

of the said *John Hayes*'s Lodgings, and also upon the Ceiling of the said Fore-Room, and on the Wall, some Part of which the Blood seems to have been lately scrap'd. And this Informant further saith, that he was present when *Thomas Billings* confess'd before the Justices that himself, *Thomas Wood*, and *Catherine Hayes* consulted to kill *John Hayes* above three Weeks before they did kill him; and that on the 1st Day of *March* last past, in the Afternoon, they all three went to fetch six Bottles of Mountain Wine; and that as they were going along they all three agreed, that when he was drunk, it would be the properest Time to kill him; and that when he was drunk he went to lie upon the Bed in the Back-Room, and he followed him, the said *John Hayes*, and gave him his Death's Blow on the Head with an Hatchet, and that *Wood* gave him a Blow or two more on the Head with the same Hatchet; and Mrs. *Hayes* immediately coming into that Room, *Wood* cut off the Head, he, the said *Thomas Billings*, and Mrs. *Hayes*, standing by, holding the Pail.

Henry Longmore.

Charles Higgs, Coroner.

Robert Wilkins, depos'd, That after her Examination before Justice *Lambert*, he went to her in *Newgate*, and asked her if she was concerned in the Murder of her Husband, or not? And then she replied, No; for that she was not with them, but was asleep in the next Room, and knew nothing of the Matter that was laid to her Charge; but that she afterwards own'd to him, that she was not sorry for committing the Murder, but was troubled she had brought *Wood* and *Billings* into a Premunire.

Mr. *Jones*, her Landlord, going to see her, she desired him to go to *Billings* in *New-Prison*, and advise him to make Preparations for his Soul, for they should both die for it, and spoke to one *Joseph Mercer*, a Taylor, to the same Purpose, saying, *I would have you go to* Thomas Billings, *for you are a Friend of his as well as mine, and tell him, that it is in vain to deny the Murder, for he is as deeply concerned in the Action as I, and for which we must both die.*

Her Confession of the Murder was confirm'd by several others, tho' she always carefully avoided owning it when examined by any Magistrate.

Mr. *Blakesly*, a Drawer at the *Braund's-Head Tavern* in *Bond-street*, confirmed their fetching the Wine on the First of *March*, and their sending the Bottles home that Night, because, as they said, the Porter should not be troubled to fetch them the next Day from Mr. *Hayes*'s Lodgings.

Mary Springate, a Lodger in the House, when she came home at Night, heard some Noise in Mr. *Hayes*'s Room, but finding they were drinking, and she being tir'd, went up to her Garret, thinking to take up her Husband's Supper, and after having eat the same, to go to Bed, she accordingly did, but that about Eleven o'Clock, she hearing somebody go down Stairs, called to Mrs. *Hayes*, and asked her who it was; to which she answered, it was her Husband, who was going into the Country, and seemed to be concerned thereat, saying, the Roads were very dangerous, and that she was sorry he was oblig'd to go out at that Time of Night: *Springate* then bid her not fear, for that by God's Grace he would return again safe, and then went again to Bed. About four or five the next Morning, she heard somebody go down Stairs again, when she got out of Bed in her Shift, and calling to Mrs. *Hayes*, ask'd her who it was; Mrs. *Hayes* replied, it was her Brother, who had brought a Bed there, when *Springate*'s Curiosity exciting her to go down Stairs, Mrs. *Hayes* came up into the Garret, saying, she had a Mind to smoak a Pipe of Tobacco with Mr. *Springate*, which stopt her having a Suspicion that they were either going to quit their Lodgings, or that something extraordinary was the Matter; and therefore ask'd Mrs. *Hayes* whether they had any such Design or not, who answered, there was no such Thing in her Thoughts; on which *Springate* then ask'd no farther Questions at that Time, till a few Days after she saw *Thomas Wood* carry out a Bundle from Mr. *Hayes*'s Room, wrapp'd up in a white Cloath, and asking Mrs. *Hayes* what it was, she said, it was a Suit of Cloaths *Wood* had borrowed of a Friend, and was going to carry them home.

Leonard Myring, a Barber, being sent for by Mrs. *Hayes*, she said to him, Mr. *Myring*, *I know you to be a very good Writer, and my Husband being gone away, and I believe will not return, and I having a small coming in of Ten Pounds a Year, which I know not how to get without forging a Letter in my Husband's Name, which I desire you to do for me*;

which

which he refuſed, as not knowing the Conſequence of ſuch a Proceeding; but ſoon after ſhe procur'd another to write the following Letter to her Husband's Mother in the Country, *viz.*

Dear Mother,

I Have not been eaſy of late, on Account of Ten Pounds John Davis *owes me. I underſtand there is but an indifferent Footing ſince he and Uncle* Jones *juggle together ſo much; and as I am inform'd has under Colour diveſted himſelf of his Eſtate for ſome Time, for Payment of ſome Money to Mr.* Jones; *therefore I inſiſt on his Payment of the Money forthwith to you, and I will ſend the Bond when you ſend me Word you have the Money; otherwiſe, without Favour or Affection, I will employ an Attorney to get it, for I will be paid forthwith, and ſo ſhew him this Letter, and let me hear ſpeedily what will be done in the Affair. I got a Friend, more ſkilled than myſelf in ſuch Things, to write this Letter for me, and am, with due Reſpect,*

Your dutiful Son,

March 14, 1725-6. John Hayes.

P. S. *My Wife gives her Duty to you, and pray direct for us at the* Brandy-Shop, *next Door to the* Golden-Pot, *over-againſt* Little Queen-ſtreet, *in* Tyburn-Road, *for we have moved our Lodgings.*

Directed *for the Widow* Hayes, *at her Houſe in the Pariſh of* Ombersley, *to be left at the* Pack-Horſe *in* Ombersly, Worceſterſhire.

To which Letter there came the following Anſwer, *viz.*

Loving Son,

JOHN Davis *deſires you to ſend down the Bond to me, and the Money is ready; ſo no more at preſent, but my Love to you. Your Brothers and Siſters gives their Love to you. All from your loving Mother,*

Ombersly, *March* 22, 1725-6. Sarah Hayes.

The mangled Corpſe, after having been many Days expos'd to ſome Thouſands of Spectators, was decently inter'd at *Marybone*, by Mr. *Longmore*. *Bennet*, the King's Organ-maker's

maker's Apprentice being at the Funeral, acquainted the Company, that upon his going on the second of *March* to see the Head at *Westminster*, he then judg'd it to be Mr. *Hayes*'s, being intimately acquainted with him, and thereupon came immediately to Mrs. *Hayes*'s, to give her Notice of it, when she reprov'd him very sharply, telling him, he ought to be cautious in raising such a false Report for that it was dangerous, and might bring him into Trouble; wherefore the Lad, who had no other Reason to suspect Mr. *Hayes*'s being murder'd, said no more about it.

On *Thursday* the 14th of *April*, the Coroner's Inquest, after several Meetings, and Examination of Witnesses, brought in their Verdict, *Wilful Murder*, against *Catherine Hayes*, *Thomas Wood*, and *Thomas Billings*; and on *Friday* the twenty second of the same Month, their Trials came on before the Lord Chief Justice *Raymond*, and Mr. Baron *Price*, at the *Old-Baily*, the Court having never been known to be so crowded before, several Persons of the First Quality being on the Bench with the Judges; and a Guinea a-piece was offer'd by several for Admittance. *Wood* and *Billings* pleaded *Guilty* to their Indictment; and *Hayes* putting herself upon Trial, about seven Witnesses were called for the King, who, in Substance, deposed what has been before related. But she denied every Particular of the Fact, and with abundance of Assurance, endeavour'd to persuade the Court of her Innocence, and protested she was no ways concerned in, or assisting in the Murder; but being ask'd why, if she was not consenting to the Murder, she did not in Time discover the same, and give Notice to some Magistrate for the apprehending the Murderers, she said she durst not, for that they had threaten'd to kill her if she said any thing of it. No Person whatever appearing in her behalf, the Lord Chief Justice *Raymond* summ'd up the Evidence for the King, and in his Charge to the Jury intimated, that tho' it was not positively proved by any of the Evidences for the King that she was actually concern'd in the Murder, yet there were very strong circumstantial Proofs of her assisting and consenting to the same, and that the other two Prisoners had confess'd the same, and own'd that she was a Contriver thereof; upon which the Jury found her guilty of *Petty Treason*. After receiving Sentence to be drawn on a Hurdle to the Place of Execution, and there burnt alive, she was observ'd

observ'd to be greatly terrify'd. And *Wood* and *Billings* entreated the Court that they might not be hang'd in Chains, since they had been so ingenious in their Confession, and desir'd no other Favour to be shewn them. At her being carry'd to and from the Sessions-House, a more than ordinary Number of Persons were set to protect her from the Insults of the Populace, who were desperately exasperated against her, and would, in all Appearance, have done her some Mischief, could they have got at her.

D THE

THE LIFE and CHARACTER OF CATH. HAYES.

CATHERINE HAYES died about 38 Years, born near Birmingham in *Warwickshire*; at the Age of 16 she wander'd from her Parents and came to *Oldbury*, near the City of *Worcester*, and was there entertain'd, as a Servant, in the House of Mr. *Hayes*, a wealthy Farmer; and being a sprightly Wench, his eldest Son *John*, in an Instant, became enamour'd with her, and they had secretly agreed to marry, which coming to his Father's Knowledge, he us'd all possible Endeavours to prevent it, which, however, prov'd of no Effect; for she threatning to cut her Throat if his Son did not marry her, and the young Man being fully bent on it, and breaking several Knives lest she should be as good as her Word, old Mr. *Hayes* at last consented. On the Day of their Marriage an odd Accident happen'd to the Bride; for as they were passing over *Heaver*'s Bridge, from the Church, the Waters being out, she fell in, and was, with much Difficulty, saved from being drowned by her Husband, who waded in after

ter her, the Father saying to his Son, *John, John, e'en let her go.*

The very first Night of their Marriage the Bridegroom was taken out of his Bed by a File of Musquetteers, being impress'd by Order of some Officers that were recruiting in the Neighbourhood, and whom, as it soon after appear'd, had been better acquainted with Mrs. *Hayes* than her Husband, and had brought her away from her Parents in *Warwickshire*; but his Father soon procured his Liberty again. The same Officers going soon after for *Spain*, she prevail'd with her Husband to enlist himself into their Regiment; and he being sent to *Barcelona*, she accompanied him thither; where he remained till such time as his Father procured his Discharge, when he returned home with his Wife into *Worcestershire*, the old Man having expended about 60 *l.* on that Occasion.

Old Mr. *Hayes* dying, and his Widow shewing but little Regard to her Daughter-in-law, as she had very little Reason to do otherwise, on Account of her ill Behaviour in the Family, she, with her Husband, came about seven Years since to *London*, and bringing with them about 150 *l.* they liv'd in *Plumtree-street* in St. *Giles's*, where they rented an House, letting the chief Part of it out in Lodgings; and after that themselves lodg'd alternatively at several Houses in *Tyburn* Road, lending small Sums of Money to poor People, on Pledges and Notes, at Interest, for their Livelihood, Mrs. *Hayes* having, as herself said oftentimes, made 18 *d.* in a Week of one Guinea by those Methods. Mr. *Hayes*, being a close penurious Man, lost no Opportunities of getting Money, sometimes by sending his Wife out a chairing for 12 *d.* a Day, while himself made his own Cloaths, Shoes, *&c.* at home, at which he had an expert Hand, tho' he was not brought up to any such Business; and was observ'd to be always so careful of his Money, that the Key of the Drawers, where he usually kept it, was never known to have been out of his own Custody, that Wife being never permitted to have it in hers; so that after Mr. *Hayes*'s Death, when one of his Acquaintance came to enquire for him, and seeing that Key in her possession, he concluded Mr. *Hayes* was not living, which Circumstance contributed very much to the Discovery of the Murder.

Mrs. *Longmore* going to make her a Visit, on *Thursday* the 4th of *March*, and enquiring how Mr. *Hayes* did, she reply'd, he was very well, and gone out to take a Walk; and asking Mrs *Longmore* what News there was, she answer'd that all the People talk'd of was about the Man's Head found at *Westminster*. To which Mrs. *Hayes* said again, *Lord keep us, how wicked the Age is grown, for*, adds she, *there's another Murder done here in our Fields, where they have found the Body of a Woman cut in Pieces.* Mrs. *Longmore* said that could not be true, because she, living so near, had not heard any thing of it. This Discourse being above a Fortnight before Mr. *Hayes*'s Body was found.

The Revd. Mr. *Wittingham*, Minister of *Marybone*, came to her in *Newgate*, pray'd by her, and press'd her to a Confession of her Crime, and a hearty Sorrow and Repentance to obtain a Remission of that and many other of her evil Actions, she having formerly advis'd her Husband to murder his Father and Mother in the Country, to get Possession of their Substance, and by her artful and insinuating Way once spirited him up to break almost all the Goods in their House, she being always violently prejudic'd to them. When thus admonish'd, she would still persist in her Innocence, saying, how could any one think it should enter into her Heart to murder a Man that had lain by her Side so many Years, and appeal'd to God for the Truth of her Assertions. Altho' she encourag'd *Wood* to consent to the Murder of her Husband, by affirming he had kill'd a Man, and two Children she had by him in the Country, and that she had then ten more Children living, was a notorious Falshood, she having never had a Child by Mr. *Hayes* in her Life. But it being shrewdly suspected, from many Circumstances, that *Billings* was her Son, and that Question being put to her, she pray'd for him, saying his Hair was the Colour of her own, and that he much resembled her, and that himself did not know how nearly he was related to her; and added, that before her Foot went off the Cart she doubted it would appear to the World; and would be often sending over to the Condemned Hold to enquire of his Health, &c.

A certain great Dutchess came to see her in the Prison, where reproaching her for Cruelty, she said she had never done an ill Thing in the Course of her Life, so that her Conscience did no ways accuse her; and as for the Fact she was charg'd with, there was a righteous God that knew she was not culpable in that Respect, and that tho' the Law might hurt her Carcass for it, yet it could not hurt her innocent and immortal Soul. In this Manner was she wont to talk to almost every Body that was admitted to see her. Being ask'd if she was ever in any Trouble before, she answer'd never but once, when for some Quarrel with her Neighbours she was before Colonel *Ellis*, a Justice of Peace in *Denmark-Street*.

One of her Sisters came to Town from *Warwickshire*, on hearing what a Misfortune she was fallen under, and furnish'd her with Necessaries, of which she was became destitute, the Officers of *Marybone* Parish having seiz'd on her Goods and other Effects, at her Lodgings in *Tyburn* Road, in order to their being deliver'd to the Relations of her late Husband, and for which Purpose Mr. *Benjamin Hayes*, one of his Brothers, was come to *London*.

A few Days before the Sessions, she put herself into Mourning, tho' she had neglected that Ceremony before, and having advis'd with a Sollicitor, was resolv'd to plead *Not Guilty*, and stand her Trial, being taught to believe that *Wood's* and *Barnes's* Confessions could no ways affect her, and that there was nothing but circumstantial Proofs of her being concern'd in the Fact, that she should escape, and grew pretty confident of it. But when the Cloaths of her Husband, which she had given to *Wood*, were produc'd before the Court, whether thro' Remorse, or that she judg'd that an evincing Proof of her Guilt, she fainted in the Bar, the Sweat running down her Face, and when she recover'd, begg'd that she might be taken away, lest she should miscarry; which made it be concluded she design'd to plead her Belly, before Judgment, wherefore a Jury of Matrons were summon'd, in case she thought fit to give the Court that Trouble, but on better Consideration she declined it.

She

She sent Word to *Wood*, that it was hard he would not suffer her to be hang'd along with him and *Billings*; but by discovering all the Particulars and Circumstances of the Murder, he had ruin'd them all, and subjected her to the Pains and Penalties of *Petty Treason*, whereby she must be burnt'd.

THE

THE LIFE and CHARACTER OF THO. BILLINGS.

THO. *BILLINGS*, about twenty three Years of Age, the Place of his Nativity not being known, we cannot satisfy the Curiosity of such as require it; but thus much is certain, that in his more innocent and infant State he was found in a Basket, at a Place call'd *Holt Heath*, near *Omberley*, in *Worcestershire*, and being by the Parish put to be nurs'd by People whose Names were *Billings*, he assum'd that Name, and when capable, was put Apprentice to one Mr. *Weatherland*, a *Taylor* in the Neighbourhood, with whom he behaved as a diligent and dutiful Servant. His Time being expired, he came for *London*, and wrought as a Journeyman to the Salesmen in *Monmouth-Street*, lying in the Bed with Mr. *Hayes* and his Wife, at the Husband's Back, paying Mr. *Hayes* three half Pence a Night for his Lodging. The Day after Mr. *Hayes*'s Murder, being at Work at Mr. *Grainger*'s, at the *Dog* and *Dial* in *Monmouth-Street*, where Mr. *Hayes* and his Wife were well acquainted, Mr. *Grainger* and the Journeymen being mostly *Worcestershire* People, one Mr. *Samuel Fetrick*, belonging to the King's Printing-Office, having came from waiting at the House of Lords, and seen the *Head* in St. *Margaret*'s Church-Yard, told his Sister,

Mrs.

Mrs. *Grainger*, and the reſt, that *he thought it look'd the moſt like their Countryman Mr.* Hayes's *Head of any thing he had ſeen in his Life*, *Billings*, being then at Work on the Shop-board, and hearing what he ſaid, No, replies ſeveral of the Workmen, that cannot be, for here is one (meaning *Billings*) that lodges with him, and had it been ſo we ſhould have heard of it, to which *Billings* made anſwer, *Mr.* Hayes *is well, for I left him at home in Bed this Morning.*

Before this Piece of Barbariſm he had the Character of as ſober and honeſt a Fellow as could breathe from every Body that knew him, an Oath nor no obſcene Expreſſion ſcarce ever being heard from him, therefore it was the more ſurprizing that he could in ſo ſhort a Time be wrought up to ſo great a Pitch of Villany; for when it was firſt reported that he was taken up, and ſent to *New-Priſon* on Suſpicion of cutting a Man's Head off, his Acquaintance treated it as the moſt ridiculous Story they had ever heard of. When he with *Wood* and Mrs. *Hayes* were going to fetch the Wine to make Mr. *Hayes* drunk with, and ſhe then propoſing to murder him, *Wood* ſtarted at the cruel Motion, ſaying what a dreadful Thing it would be to murder an innocent Man that had done none of them any Harm, and what would be their Puniſhment in this World, (if it was diſcover'd) and moreover in the World to come; to which *Billings* cry'd, *D—n thee, thou haſt not the Heart of a Mouſe, what's come to thee, thy Mother's as ſtout a Woman as can be, and is able to beat any Man.* Mrs. *Hayes* then urging it was no more Crime to kill a Man that was ſo great an Atheiſt as Mr. *Hayes*, and us'd her ſo cruelly, *&c.* than it was to kill a Dog or Cat. But both before and after his Sentence he diſcover'd great Signs of Sorrow and Contrition for his heinous Crime, and from the Time he had purged his Conſcience by an ingenious and ample Confeſſion of it, he behav'd like a ſincere Penitent, and grew more eaſy in his Mind, deſiring not to live. A few Days before the Seſſions, being along with *Wood*, confronted with Mrs. *Hayes*, who was on the Naſter-ſide of *Newgate*, Juſtice *Lambert* and ſeveral others being preſent, he acknowledged he had lain with her ſeveral Nights ſince her Husband's Death, which ſhe denying, he confirm'd, ſaying, *there was a juſt God that knew it to be too true, to both their Sorrows.*

THE

THE LIFE and CHARACTER OF THOMAS WOOD.

THOMAS WOOD, aged 28 Years last July, was born near the *Hundred-House* on the Road between *Worcester* and *Ludlow*, within 3 Miles of *Otherly*, his Mother and Sister now keeping a publick House there; but he being brought up to no regular Employment, lived sometimes in Farmers Houses, doing Drudgery in the Barns, &c. and at others serv'd as a Tapster at several Country Inns: Coming to *London*, he, for about a Year, drew Liquors at the *Baptist-Head* Ale-house in *Clerkenwell*; and, for ought as we can learn, behav'd honestly in all his Places: But unfortunately going, about the latter End of *February* last, to Mr. *Hayes*'s Lodgings in Tyburn Road, to see *Thomas Bilings*, his Countryman and Friend, and having some Acquaintance with Mrs *Hayes* and her Husband, she perswaded him to lodge there with them, and they would take Care to employ him in some Business or other; he, fearful of being impress'd, and being withal straighten'd for Money, was thankful for her Kindness,

and agreed to her Proposal; but before he had been there four Days, she communicated to him the Design of murdering her Husband, which *Billings* had consented to before, and only waited an Opportunity to put it in Execution, and press'd him to be assisting in it, saying, she was worth about 1500 *l.* and he should have it all; and thro' her strong Persuasions, he comply'd with her fatal Request. He own'd, that after the Commission of the cruel Fact, his Heart was full of Horror, and his Head full of Confusion, and had not enjoy'd an Hour's Quiet since; and said, that on the *Sunday* when he came from *Greenford*, and was apprehended, as he approached Mrs. *Hayes*'s old Lodgings he saw a Crowd of People about the Door, and fancy'd the Murder was discover'd, yet was so infatuated, that he had not the Power to go back again, though he had once design'd to have come into the Town to learn if there was any Talk about it, before he went to Mrs. *Hayes*'s, having not heard any thing of it towards *Harrow*; but also neglected so to do. In both which he own'd the Justice of God in pursuing with his Divine Vengeance such a wicked Sinner. But when secured, no Man could do more than he to expiate his Guilt, first, by an ingenious and ample Confession of the Fact, and, secondly, by a sincere and hearty Repentance of it: So that he might be said, with holy *David*, to wash his Couch with his Tears. Which suitable Behaviour drew the Commiseration of all manner of People on him, and render'd him an Object of great Pity: and both him and *Billings* desir'd the Prayers of all the Persons that came to see them in *Newgate*, who generously relieved their Necessities by giving them Money, and pious Books suitable to their Circumstances.

When the News came into *Worcestershire* of his being apprehended for Murder, about 14 Gentlemen of good Account in that Country sign'd a Certificate of his honest and sober Deportment there, and sent the same to *London*, that it might be of Service to him at his Trial, they believing him entirely innocent of the Charge, till they were satisfy'd of the contrary by his Confession. When he was confronted with Mrs. *Hayes* in *Newgate*, and she persisting in her Denial of her Guilt, he with Tears exhorted her to desist from that wicked and foolish Resolution, telling her the contrary would soon appear, not only here, but before the Great God; adding, what Comfort his own Soul had received since his prostrating himself at the Throne of Grace for Forgiveness, and doubted

not

not he should receive it from a merciful Creator; but that made no Impression on her wicked obdurate Heart, still vainly believing she should slip thro' the Hands of Justice.

On the Day of Mrs. *Hayes*'s Trial he recollected himself that when they had cut off her Husband's Head, and were consulting what to do with it, Mrs. *Hayes* said, *She would boil it in a Porridge-Pot till nothing remain'd but the Skull, to avoid a Discovery.*

The following is a Copy of a Letter that he sent to some of his Friends, in which he acknowledges the Part he acted in that most Tragical Affair.

Newgate, April 12. 1726.

Dear Friends,

I Beg and pray heartily, Day and Night, that the just God of Heaven will pardon the great Offences which have been committed, in his Sight, to our Fellow Creature so rashly: I allow myself to be a vile Sinner, in being concern'd in that wicked Crime; but since it cannot be recall'd, I hope the great God of Heaven will be merciful unto me a poor miserable Wretch. It is a great Trouble to me that I should so disgrace my honest Parents and Friends, and brought this shameful Death to be my End; so as I ask Pardon of God Almighty, I ask Forgiveness also of all my Friends, and beg their Prayers for my poor Soul, which is all the Good they can do for me. Now to let you know the Truth of this Matter, according to your Desire, in the first Place Cousin *Jones*, after I had been there a little while, seem'd weary of me, who at my first coming up pretended to do great Matters for me, but after a Time she hired another to do her Business in the House, and then thought I should trouble her no more. I then design'd to go to my Sister until I could get into Business, and a little Money to come down; but she happening to lye in at that Time, I could not be there; so unfortunately going to Mrs. *Hayes*'s House ——— [*Here he mentions the Particulars of the Murder.*] For so doing I think myself deserving of Death; I resign myself to Almighty God, to take my Life or spare it; I hope, through his gracious Mercy and true Repentance to receive Forgiveness for my great Offences and wicked Crime, and as I was drawn in by wicked People, I beg the Prayers of all my dear Friends; I am greatly troubled

for

FINIS.